

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AF-06 NEA-09 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05

INT-05 CIEP-01 /099 W

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R 260841Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0916

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2489

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, KN, KS

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS' CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREANS IN KATHMANDU

REF: MANILA 2353

1. CONTROLLED MANILA PRESS' EFFUSIVE COVERAGE OF MRS. MARCOS' "QUIET DIPLOMACY" AT NEPALESE CORONATION HAS INCLUDED REFERENCE TO HER CONTACTS WITH CHINESE, NORTH VIETNAMESE, IRANIANS, INDIANS CEYLONSE, SOVIETS, SIKKIMESE, BHUTANESE, NEPALESE, PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE AKIHITO AND (LAST BUT NOT LEAST) NORTH KOREANS.

2. INITIAL PRESS COVERAGE (FEB 24) WAS CAREFUL TO SPECIFY THAT NORTH KOREAN VICE PREMIER HAD SOUGHT MEETING WITH FIRST LADY. SUBSEQUENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT IN TODAY'S TIMES JOURNAL SAYS NORTH KOREANS TOLD HER PYONGYANG WANTS TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MANILA AND (AFTER 25-MINUTE CONVERSATION) INVITED HER TO VISIT NORTH KOREA.

3. EVENING EXPRESS FEBRUARY 26 GOES FURTHER AND QUOTES MRS. MARCOS
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AS REPLYING TO NORTH KOREANS "YOU WILL HEAR FROM US" AND

"I HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON IN YOUR CAPITAL" BUT INFORMING THEM THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW GOP NORMALIZATION WITH PRC. ARTICLE SAYS FILIPINO DIPLOMATS "JUDGED MEETING SIGNIFICANT", OBSERVING THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE BEEN "HELPING PROVIDE MILITARY TRAINING FOR THE LIBYANS, WHO WHAVE BEEN ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE MUSLIM REBELS IN MINDANAO" AND THAT PHILIPPINES IS IMPORTING IRON PELLETS FROM NK VIA HONG KONG.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THIS MEANS BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT. ALTHOUGH NEVER WITHOUT SIGNIFICANCE, FIRST LADY'S DIPLOMACY TENDS TO BE UNCOORDINATED AND SOMETIMES GETS AHEAD OF WHAT HER HUSBAND AND THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT ARE WILLING TO ALLOW OR WISH TO DO. REFTEL NOTED THAT DURING JUST-CONCLUDED VISIT OF SOUTH KOREAN FON MIN TO MANILA, PHILIPPINE SIDE (WITHOUT PROMPTING) PLEDGED COOPERATION WITH SEOUL ON REUNIFICATION AND N-S ISSUES. SULLIVAN

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